



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE

### **500<sup>th</sup> DEFENDANT CONVICTED FOR FIREARM VIOLATION**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two defendants were sentenced and another pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings and guilty plea are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

\* **Jerry N. Barry**, 61, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 15 years in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 22, 2003, **Barry** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Barry** admitted that he was in possession of a Universal .30 caliber rifle on May 27, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Barry** has more than three violent criminal felony convictions dating back to 1963, which classifies him as a violent career offender. Since 1963 he has been convicted of nine criminal felonies, including murder, robbery, burglary, two firearm violations, two possession of a controlled substance convictions, stealing a motor vehicle and tampering.

**Barry** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 11, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Peculiar, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Michael W. Casey**, 40, of Gladstone, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to one year and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 17, 2003, **Casey** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Casey** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolver on Sept. 7, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Casey** has two criminal felony convictions for burglary from 1984 and 1986.

**Casey** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 4, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Gladstone, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Joshua C. Sickles**, 21, of Hardin, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Sickles** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger Security-Six .357 revolver on Aug. 14, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a person who is an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Sickles** admitted that, at the time he was in possession of the firearm, he was an unlawful user or addicted to methamphetamine.

**Sickles** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 21, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Hardin, Mo., Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

#### **Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 590 defendants, and convictions against 500 of those defendants, including 472 who pleaded guilty and 28 who were convicted at trial.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)